

**Community Board 12, Manhattan**  
**Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee Meeting: March 13, 2018**  
**CB12 Conference Room (530 W. 166<sup>th</sup> St., 6<sup>th</sup> fl., NYC 10032)**

**Committee Members Present:** Elizabeth Lorris Ritter (Chair), Mitchell Glenn (Assistant Chair), Daryl Cochrane, Natalie Espino, Barbara Frazier, Richard Lewis, Karen Taylor (public member). **Excused:** Domingo Estevez. **Other CB12 Members Attending:** Wayne Benjamin, Osi Kaminer, Ariel Miranda, Steve Simon. **Staff:** Paola Garcia. **Also attending:** Meghan Alvarez, RowNY; Pat Courtney; Trish Anderton, Inwood Canoe Club; Valinn Ranelli; Jennifer Hoppa, Charlene Edwards, & Jennifer Gonzalez, NYC Parks; Stewart Desmond, Broadway Malls Association.

**The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.**

1. 6:35pm **Welcome, Opening Remarks & Announcements** (Elizabeth Lorris Ritter, Chair)
  - Several upcoming events, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Inwood Film Festival (March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>), the First Annual WH JazzFest (March 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>) with an accompanying art exhibit at Le Chéile (181<sup>st</sup> St. & Cabrini Blvd.), and NoMAA's excellent Women's History art exhibit, thoughtfully curated by Andrea Arroyo, at the Rio II Gallery (Riverside Dr. @ 135<sup>th</sup> St.), both through the end of March.
  - Next month's meeting will be on April 10<sup>th</sup>, and will be chaired by Mitchell Glenn in my absence.
  - May meeting will be the annual joint meeting with the Public Safety Committee, and will be held on that Committee's usual night since it's their turn: Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7pm, in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. Next month we will revise our list of questions for the panel (NYPD, NYPD, PEP, USCG, Parks, DA, DoT, etc.) so that all invited guests may adequately prepare.
  - Charlene Edwards of J. Hood Wright Rec Center announced many events for "Music Month" in June, and a spring Dance-a-Thon on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4pm-8pm.
  - Jennifer Gonzalez of Highbridge Park Rec Center announced an Easter Celebration (egg hunts, arts 'n crafts, etc.) on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 11am-3pm.
2. 6:50pm **NYC Parks Report** (Jennifer Hoppa, NYC Parks Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator)  
See full report in separate document.
  - Gorman Park: retaining wall repairs to be done as part of a multi-site contract. Engineering firm will do design work starting later this summer. It will be about 18 months (from now) for design, contract, and procurement. Not clear how long the actual project will take, it's an engineering issue, not full capital construction so while it could be as long as 18 months, it might only take a few months.
  - Projected start date for Inwood Hill Park Nature Center Fall '19.
  - NYC Parks monthly Trail Days a big success with 300+ volunteers. Next event on March 17<sup>th</sup>: wear green/get green!
  - Announced more than a dozen free programs over the next month, including five (5!) egg hunts in area parks, and the annual Shearing of the Heathers on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.
3. 7pm **Presentation by the Broadway Malls Association** (Stewart Desmond) Next exhibition will be "Kathy Ruttenberg on Broadway: in dreams awake," a whimsical collection with a fairytalesque sensibility, each installation pairing two figures in relationship to one another. The collection takes its name from the Henry David Thoreau quote, "Our truest life is when we are in dreams awake." One work, "Fish Bowl," will be placed within CD12, in Ilka Tanya Payan Park at 157<sup>th</sup> St. The exhibit will be installed mid-April and will remain in place through mid-Winter. There will be signage with information about the works, a map of all seven works, and a website where people can get more information about the works and the artists. There won't be QR-codes or a phone-based recordings as those have not proven to be used much by the public in the past. Liz asked for a blurb so that

CB12 can let people know about the exhibit. She thanked Stewart and the Association for their excellent consistently exhibitions, which the public seem to enjoy a great deal.

4. 7:10pm **Update on CB12M Resolution regarding the proposed Inwood rezoning** The Land Use Committee drafted a resolution based on the past year+ of public meetings, workshops, Committee meetings, last month's Public Hearing, and the February Committee meetings. The draft is being circulated to the Committee Chairs to ensure that the points raised in each Committee meeting is accurately reflected in the reso. LU Chair Wayne Benjamin did an excellent job of aggregating all of the input and feedback and in including all of the many technical aspects of the proposal itself. The draft is currently 9 pages and likely will grow to 11 or 12 once additional comments from Committees have been added. The reso is a negative, i.e., that does not support the current plan as proposed by EDC. Because the minutes from the February PCA Committee are not yet finished, the resolution doesn't include all of the specific language we wanted to include, but Liz will be sending those comments to Wayne to include in the final reso. Even without the minutes, however, the points regarding preservation of the shoreline and development of the waterfront for public use and recreation are included, as is language regarding landmarked views and open sky plane. The reso is missing specific reference to the Slave, African-American, & Native American burial grounds, as well as the North Cove above 207<sup>th</sup> St.

Although it doesn't relate to this Committee it was noted that the resolution doesn't specifically mention the need to strengthen rent regulation at the state level as a way of protecting existing affordable housing; this language will also be added. Pat Courtney asked if height and over-development of the "Commercial U" is included? A: yes, it's in there.

5. 7:30pm **Additional announcements & New Business**
- Announcement of then-upcoming Dance Theater of Harlem events at the City Centre.
  - Meghan Alvarez announced a meeting of RowNY's Sherman Creek Community Boathouse Council. Our vision for Sherman Creek is to replace the current Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse with a new community facility. We will be making a presentation at the PCA Committee in April. We are committed to creating a Boathouse Council to engage local residents in this process. Members of the council must reside in or otherwise have a demonstrated interest (e.g., work, attend school, have a business) in the WH/Inwood community. All materials will be made available in both English and Spanish. Our next meeting is on March 28th, 6:30pm - 7:30pm at the Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse (3579 Harlem River Drive, just south of Dyckman Street). If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact me: malvarez@rownewyork.org / 718-433-3075. For more information about Row New York, please visit: [www.rownewyork.org](http://www.rownewyork.org).
  - Committee member Daryl Cochrane asked about potential sites for murals in the community? Liz indicated that the Housing/Human Services, Land Use, and PCA Committees could work together to create a databank of possible spaces that could be used by mural artists. The Audubon Mural Project may have started on this.

There being no additional business, **the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm** so that the Board could convene a Public Hearing regarding the Proposed FY '19 Budget.